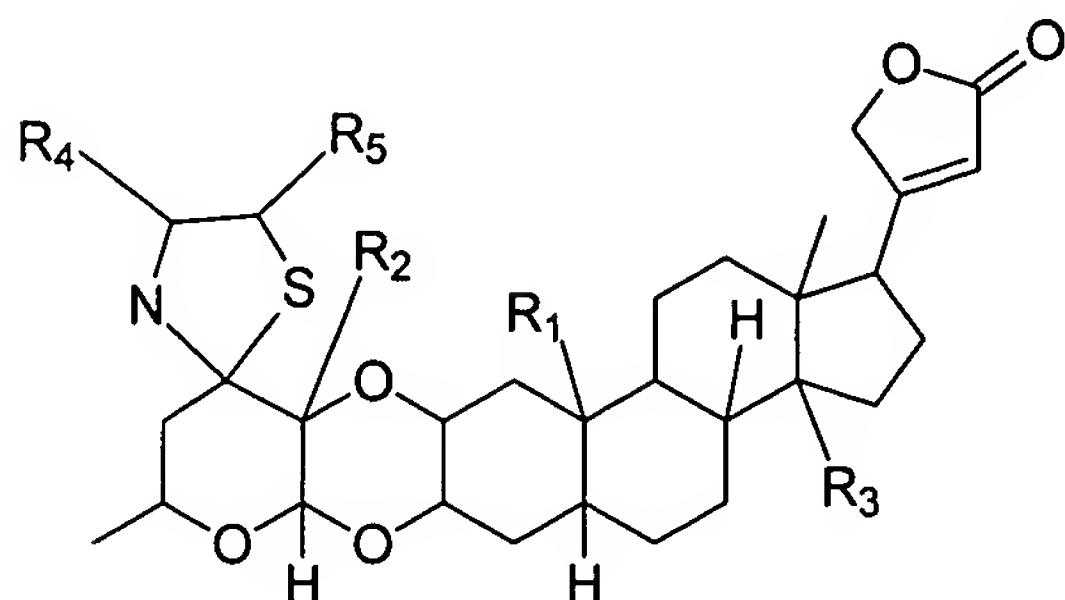


# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

formula I



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group comprising ~~consisting of~~ hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthiocarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxythiocarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, arylthiocarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylalkylthiocarbonyl, aryloxyalkyl, arylthioalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthiocarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>thiocarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>thiocarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthiocarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cyano, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, aminoalkyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup> or

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and  $\text{CR}^6=\text{N}(\text{OR}^7)$ , with  $\text{R}^6$  and  $\text{R}^7$  being independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl,  $\text{Het}^1$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{alkyl}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{aryl}$ , alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkylsilyloxy, arylsilyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, haloalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, aralkanoyloxy, aroyloxy, aryloxycarbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy,  $\text{Het}^1\text{alkyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{oxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{oxyalkyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{aryloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{aralkyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{cycloalkyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{carbonyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{oxycarbonyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{alkanoyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{aralkanoyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{aryloxyalkyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{aroyl}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{oxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{alkyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{oxyalkyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{aralkyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{cycloalkyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{alkanoyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{aralkanoyloxy}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{carbonyloxyl}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{aryloxy}$ , and  $\text{Het}^2\text{aryloxyalkyloxy}$ ,

wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are ~~optionally~~unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl,  $\text{Het}^1$ ,  $\text{Het}^2$ , cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl,  $\text{alkylS}(=\text{O})_t$ , hydroxy, cyano, halogen ~~or~~and amino, unsubstituted, ~~optionally~~ mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,  $\text{Het}^1$ ,  $\text{Het}^2$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{alkyl}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{alkyl}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{amino}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{amino}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{alkylamino}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{alkylamino}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{thio}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{thio}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{alkylthio}$ ,  $\text{Het}^2\text{alkylthio}$ ,  $\text{Het}^1\text{oxy}$  and  $\text{Het}^2\text{oxy}$ ,  $\text{OR}^8$ ,  $\text{SR}^8$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{CN}$ ,  $\text{CR}^8=\text{NR}^9$ ,  $\text{S}(\text{O})\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{CR}^8=\text{N}(\text{OR}^9)$ ,  $\text{N}_3$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{S})\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{O})_s\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{S})\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{S})\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{S})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{C}(\text{S})\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{CO}_2\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^9\text{R}^{10}$ , ~~and~~  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{S})\text{NR}^9\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{O})\text{SR}^9$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{C}(\text{S})\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{C}(\text{S})\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{SO}_2\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NHSO}_2\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{NR}^8\text{SO}_2\text{NHR}^9$ , and  $\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OR}^8)(\text{OR}^9)$ ,

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with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  being each independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein  $R^4$  is selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of oxo, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkanediyl, alkyloxy, alkylthio, alkylamino, alkyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylcarbonylalkyl,

cycloalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylthio, cycloalkylamino, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, aryl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyloxy, aryloxycarbonyloxy, aralkoxycarbonyloxy, aryloxyalkyl, haloalkyloxy, haloalkylthio, haloalkylamino, hydroxyalkyl, aralkanoyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl; Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>cycloalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl,

aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and aminoalkyl, optionally unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen ~~or~~and amino, optionally unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy,  $OR^{11}$ ,  $SR^{11}$ ,  $SO_2NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $SO_2N(OH)R^{11}$ , CN,  $CR^{11}=NR^{12}$ ,  $S(O)R^{11}$ ,  $SO_2R^{11}$ ,  $CR^{11}=N(OR^{12})$ ,  $N_3$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)R^{11}$ ,  $C(O)R^{11}$ ,  $C(S)R^{11}$ ,  $CO_2R^{11}$ ,  $C(O)SR^{11}$ ,  $C(O)NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $C(S)NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $C(O)N(OH)R^{12}$ ,  $C(S)N(OH)R^{11}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(O)R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(S)R^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)R^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)R^{11}$ ,  $NR^{11}CO_2R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(O)NR^{12}R^{13}$ , and  $NR^{11}C(S)NR^{12}R^{13}$ ,  $N(OH)CO_2R^{11}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(O)SR^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(O)N(OH)R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(S)N(OH)R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}SO_2R^{12}$ ,  $NHSO_2NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}SO_2NHR^{12}$ ,  $P(O)(OR^{11})(OR^{12})$ , wherein t is an integer

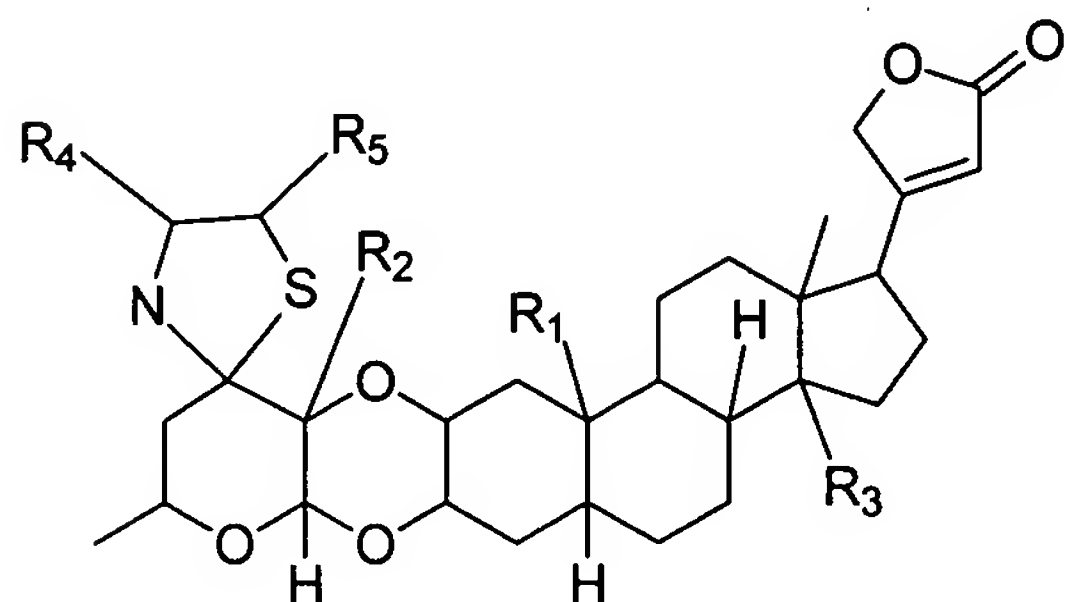
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between 1 and 2,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$  are each independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl; and

wherein  $R^5$  is selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, oxo, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkanediyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylcarbonylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, aryl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyloxy, aryloxy carbonyloxy, aralkoxy carbonyloxy, aryloxyalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aralkanoyl, aryloxy carbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>cycloalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and aminoalkyl, ~~optionally unsubstituted or substituted~~ by one or more substituents independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxy carbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen ~~or~~ and amino, ~~optionally unsubstituted~~, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy,  $OR^{11}$ ,  $SR^{11}$ ,  $SO_2NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $SO_2N(OH)R^{11}$ , CN,  $CR^{11}=NR^{12}$ ,  $S(O)R^{11}$ ,  $SO_2R^{11}$ ,  $CR^{11}=N(OR^{12})$ ,  $N_3$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)R^{11}$ ,  $C(O)R^{11}$ ,  $C(S)R^{11}$ ,  $CO_2R^{11}$ ,  $C(O)SR^{11}$ ,  $C(O)NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $C(S)NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $C(O)N(OH)R^{12}$ ,  $C(S)N(OH)R^{11}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(O)R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(S)R^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)R^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)R^{11}$ ,  $NR^{11}CO_2R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(O)NR^{12}R^{13}$ , and  $NR^{11}C(S)NR^{12}R^{13}$ ,  $N(OH)CO_2R^{11}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(O)SR^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(O)N(OH)R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}C(S)N(OH)R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}SO_2R^{12}$ ,  $NHSO_2NR^{11}R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{11}SO_2NHR^{12}$ , and  $P(O)(OR^{11})(OR^{12})$ , wherein t is an integer between 1 and 2,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$  are each independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl.



2. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, having the formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,  
 formula I



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthiocarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxythiocarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, arylthiocarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylalkylthiocarbonyl, aryloxyalkyl, arylthioalkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthiocarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>thiocarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl; Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>thiocarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthiocarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cyano, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, aminoalkyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup> ~~or~~and CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>), with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl,

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alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkylsilyloxy, arylsilyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, haloalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, aralkanoyloxy, aroyloxy, aryloxycarbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxy, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy,

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are ~~optionally unsubstituted or~~ substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen ~~or~~ and amino, ~~optionally unsubstituted,~~ mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)<sub>s</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, ~~and~~ NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>),

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl,

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alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein  $R^4$  is oxo and  $R^5$  is hydrogen or alkyl.

3. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1,

wherein  $R^1$  is selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl,  $Het^1$ oxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ alkoxycarbonyl,  $Het^1$ oxycarbonyl,  $Het^1$ aryloxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ alkyloxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ arylthioalkyl,  $Het^1$ aryloxycarbonyl,  $Het^1$ aralkoxycarbonyl,  $Het^1$ oxyalkylcarbonyl,  $Het^1$ alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl,  $Het^1$ aryloxyalkylcarbonyl,  $Het^1$ carbonyloxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ oxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ alkyloxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ oxycarbonyl,  $Het^2$ alkoxycarbonyl,  $Het^2$ aralkoxycarbonyl,  $Het^2$ aryloxycarbonyl,  $Het^2$ aryloxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ arylthioalkyl,  $Het^2$ oxyalkylcarbonyl,  $Het^2$ alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl,  $Het^2$ aryloxyalkylcarbonyl,  $Het^2$ carbonyloxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl,  $CR^6=NR^7$ , and  $CR^6=N(OR^7)$ ,

with  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  being independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^1$ alkyl,  $Het^1$ aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, aryloxycarbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy,  $Het^1$ alkyloxy,  $Het^1$ oxy,  $Het^1$ oxyalkyloxy,  $Het^1$ aryloxy,  $Het^1$ aralkyloxy,  $Het^1$ cycloalkyloxy,  $Het^1$ carbonyloxy,  $Het^1$ alkanoyloxy,  $Het^1$ aralkanoyloxy,  $Het^1$ aryloxyalkyloxy,  $Het^2$ oxy,  $Het^2$ alkyloxy,  $Het^2$ oxyalkyloxy,  $Het^2$ aralkyloxy,  $Het^2$ cycloalkyloxy,  $Het^2$ alkanoyloxy,  $Het^2$ aralkanoyloxy,  $Het^2$ carbonyloxy,  $Het^2$ aryloxy, and  $Het^2$ aryloxyalkyloxy,

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy,  $OR^8$ ,  $SR^8$ ,  $SO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $SO_2N(OH)R^8$ , CN,  $CR^8=NR^9$ ,  $S(O)R^8$ ,  $SO_2R^8$ ,  $CR^8=N(OR^9)$ ,  $N_3$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)R^8$ ,  $C(O)R^8$ ,  $C(S)R^8$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $C(O)SR^8$ ,  $C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(O)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $C(S)N(OH)R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(S)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)R^8$ ,  $NR^8CO_2R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)NR^9R^{10}$ ,  $NR^8C(S)NR^9R^{10}$ ,  $N(OH)CO_2R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)SR^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(S)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2R^9$ ,  $NHSO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2NHR^9$ , and  $P(O)(OR^8)(OR^9)$ ,

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;~~wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; and~~

wherein  $R^4$  is selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of, oxo, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl and  $R^5$  is hydrogen, oxo, hydroxyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, alkenyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl.

4. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 2,

wherein  $R^1$  is selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl,



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arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup>, and CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>),

with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, aryloxycarbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxy; Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxy, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy,

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxy, aryloxy, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio,

Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)sR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>),

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup> R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; and

wherein R<sup>4</sup> is oxo and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or alkyl.

5. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, ~~or 2 or 4~~,  
wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup>, and CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>),

with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydroxyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, formyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyloxy, and Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyloxy,

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>),

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; ~~wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; and~~

wherein R<sup>4</sup> is oxo and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or alkyl.

6. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of claims 1, or 2, 4 to 5,~~ wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylthioalkyl, carboxyl, formyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, ~~optionally unsubstituted or~~ substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl,

aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>),

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup> R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino~~indicated in claim 1~~; wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl and wherein R<sup>4</sup> is oxo and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

7. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of claims 1, 2, 4 to 6~~, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, carboxyl, formyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, ~~optionally unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of~~ consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy,



arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>),

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup> R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino~~indicated in claim 1~~; wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl, R<sup>4</sup> is oxo and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

8. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of claims 1, 2, 4 to 7~~ or 2, 4 to 7, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of alkyl, carboxyl, formyl; wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl, and wherein R<sup>4</sup> is oxo and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

9. (Original) A compound according to claim 8, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is formyl, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl R<sup>4</sup> is oxo and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

10. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 3, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, carboxyl, formyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl,

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Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup>, and CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>),

with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydroxyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, formyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyloxy, and Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyloxy,

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>),

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; ~~wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group indicated in claim 1; and~~

wherein R<sup>4</sup> is oxo, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, alkenyl, arylcarbonylaryl, or alkylcarbonylalkyl and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or alkyl.

11. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of claims 1, 3 or 10~~ claim 1 or 3, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is hydroxyalkyl, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl, R<sup>4</sup> is oxo and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

12. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of claims 1, 3 or 10~~ claim 1 or 3, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylthioalkyl, carboxyl, formyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, ~~optionally unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)sR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>),~~

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup> R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino

and arylthiocarbonylamino~~indicated in claim 1~~; wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are hydroxyl and wherein  $R^4$  is hydroxyalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl, or alkylcarbonylalkyl and  $R^5$  is hydrogen.

13. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of claims 1, 3, 10 or 12~~claim 1 or 3, wherein  $R^1$  is selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, carboxyl, formyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, ~~optionally unsubstituted or~~ substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)sR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>), with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino~~indicated in claim 1~~; wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are hydroxyl,  $R^4$  is hydroxyalkyl, arylcarbonylalkyl, or alkylcarbonylalkyl and  $R^5$  is hydrogen.



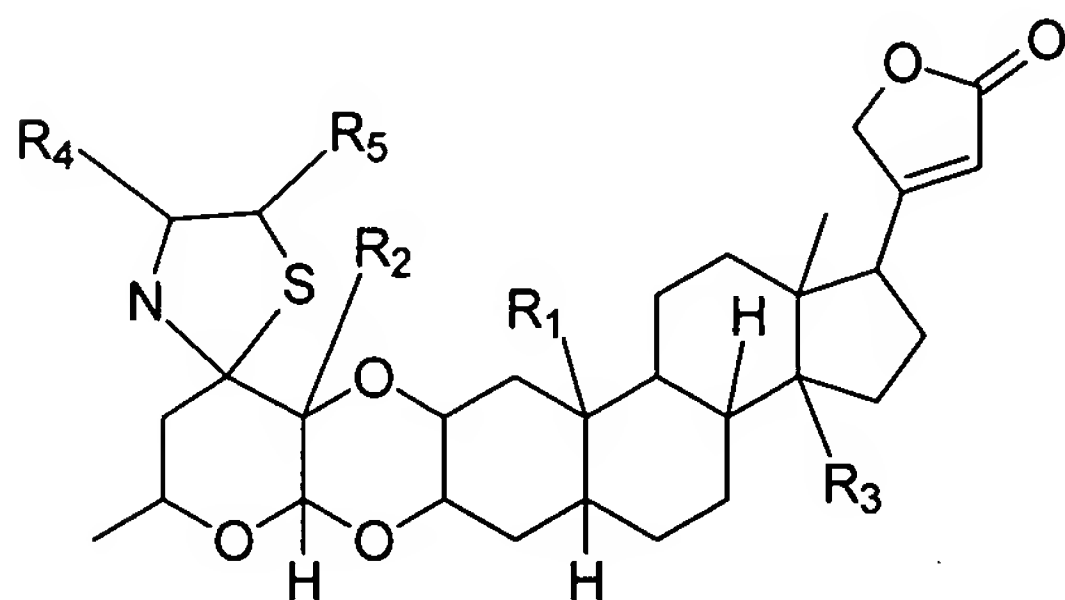
14. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of claims 1, 3, 10, 12 or 13~~ claim 1 or 3, wherein  $R^1$  is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyl, and formyl; wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are hydroxyl, and wherein  $R^4$  is arylcarbonylalkyl and  $R^5$  is hydrogen.

15. (Original) A compound according to claim 14, wherein  $R^1$  is hydroxyalkyl,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are hydroxyl,  $R^4$  is arylcarbonylalkyl and  $R^5$  is hydrogen.

16. (Original) A compound according to claim 15, wherein  $R^1$  is hydroxymethylene,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are hydroxyl,  $R^4$  is phenylcarbonylmethylene and  $R^5$  is hydrogen.

17. (Currently amended) A compound having the formula Ia or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

formula Ia



wherein  $R^1$  is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, silyloxyalkyl, carboxyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxycarbonyl,

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Int'l filing date : October 9, 2003

Het<sup>2</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup>, and CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>),

with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkylsilyloxy, arylsilyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, haloalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, aralkanoyloxy, aroyloxy, aryloxycarbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxy, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy,

~~wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have the same definition as in claim 1;~~

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)sR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>,

N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>),

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup> R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino; wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group as indicated in claim 1, and  
wherein R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are hydrogen or alkyl.

18. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 17,

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, silyloxyalkyl, carboxyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup>, and CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>), with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkylsilyloxy, arylsilyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy cycloalkylalkyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxyalkyloxy, silyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, haloalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, aralkanoyloxy, aroyloxy, aryloxycarbonylalkyloxy, formyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>1</sup>aroyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkyloxy,

Het<sup>2</sup>cycloalkyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>alkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkanoyloxy, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxy, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyloxy,

~~wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have the same definition as in claim 1;~~

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>),

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;~~wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group as indicated in claims 1, and~~

wherein R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are hydrogen or alkyl.

19. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 17 or 18, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylthioalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, carboxyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl,



Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, optionally unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>),  
with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup> R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino~~indicated in claim 1~~; wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl and wherein R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are hydrogen or alkyl.

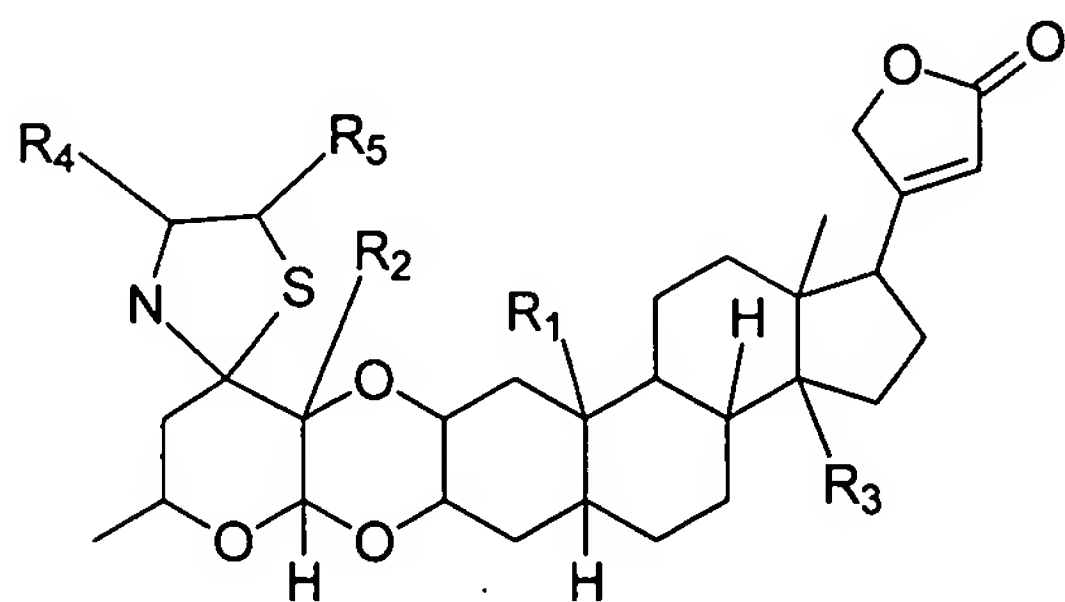
20. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of claims 17 to 19~~ claim 17 or 18, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, carboxyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, ~~optionally unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group~~ consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano,

halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>),

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup> R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino~~indicated in claim 1~~; wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl and wherein R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are hydrogen.

21. (Currently amended) A compound having the formula Ib or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

formula Ib



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl,

cycloalkylalkanoyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, arylcarbonyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, arylcarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, arylthioalkyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, silyloxyalkyl, carboxyl, alkenylcarbonyl, alkynylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>1</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkoxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxycarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>arylthioalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkylcarbonyl, Het<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>aralkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, CR<sup>6</sup>=NR<sup>7</sup>, and CR<sup>6</sup>=N(OR<sup>7</sup>),

with R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> being independently selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino;

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is ~~optionally~~unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>,

NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>),

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino as indicated in claim 1, and

wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl and wherein R<sup>4</sup> is replaced by a double bond between the N atom and the C carbon atom of the N-containing heterocyclic ring of formula Ib; and wherein R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

22. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 21, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group ~~comprising~~consisting of alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, carboxyl, Het<sup>1</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>aryloxyalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>oxyalkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyloxyalkyl, and Het<sup>2</sup>aryloxyalkyl, optionally unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>, Het<sup>2</sup>, Het<sup>1</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>2</sup>alkyl, Het<sup>1</sup>amino, Het<sup>2</sup>amino, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylamino, Het<sup>1</sup>thio, Het<sup>2</sup>thio, Het<sup>1</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>2</sup>alkylthio, Het<sup>1</sup>oxy and Het<sup>2</sup>oxy, OR<sup>8</sup>, SR<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, CN, CR<sup>8</sup>=NR<sup>9</sup>, S(O)R<sup>8</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CR<sup>8</sup>=N(OR<sup>9</sup>), N<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)SR<sup>8</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, C(S)N(OH)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>, N(OH)CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)SR<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, N(OH)C(S)NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>C(S)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, NHSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>9</sup>, and P(O)(OR<sup>8</sup>)(OR<sup>9</sup>),



with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^1$ alkyl,  $Het^1$ aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino~~indicated in claim 1~~; wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are hydroxyl and wherein  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are hydrogen.

23. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 22, wherein  $R^1$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, silyloxyalkyl, aralkyl, arylalkenyl, carboxyl,  $Het^1$ oxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ aryloxyalkyl,  $Het^1$ alkyloxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ oxyalkyl,  $Het^2$ alkyloxyalkyl, and  $Het^2$ aryloxyalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl, aryl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^2$ , cycloalkyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylS(=O)<sub>t</sub>, hydroxy, cyano, halogen and amino, unsubstituted, mono- or disubstituted wherein the substituents are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, arylamino, arylthio, aryloxyalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, aralkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylaminoalkoxy, aralkylamino, aryloxyalkylamino, arylaminoalkylamino, arylthioalkoxy, arylthioalkylamino, aralkylthio, aryloxyalkylthio, arylaminoalkylthio, arylthioalkylthio, alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^2$ ,  $Het^1$ alkyl,  $Het^2$ alkyl,  $Het^1$ amino,  $Het^2$ amino,  $Het^1$ alkylamino,  $Het^2$ alkylamino,  $Het^1$ thio,  $Het^2$ thio,  $Het^1$ alkylthio,  $Het^2$ alkylthio,  $Het^1$ oxy and  $Het^2$ oxy,  $OR^8$ ,  $SR^8$ ,  $SO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $SO_2N(OH)R^8$ , CN,  $CR^8=NR^9$ ,  $S(O)R^8$ ,  $SO_2R^8$ ,  $CR^8=N(OR^9)$ ,  $N_3$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)R^8$ ,  $C(O)R^8$ ,  $C(S)R^8$ ,  $CO_2R^8$ ,  $C(O)SR^8$ ,  $C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $C(O)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $C(S)N(OH)R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(S)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)R^8$ ,  $NR^8CO_2R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)NR^9R^{10}$ ,  $NR^8C(S)NR^9R^{10}$ ,  $N(OH)CO_2R^8$ ,  $NR^8C(O)SR^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(O)NR^8R^9$ ,  $N(OH)C(S)NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(O)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $NR^8C(S)N(OH)R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2R^9$ ,  $NHSO_2NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8SO_2NHR^9$ , and  $P(O)(OR^8)(OR^9)$ ,

with t being an integer between 1 and 2, and  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  being each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl,  $Het^1$ ,  $Het^1$ alkyl,  $Het^1$ aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkylthiocarbonylamino and arylthiocarbonylamino ~~$R^1$  has the same definition as in claim 20~~, wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are

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hydroxyl; wherein R<sup>4</sup> is replaced by a double bond between the N atom and the C carbon atom of the N-containing heterocyclic ring of formula Ib; and wherein R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

24. (Currently amended) ~~Compound~~ A compound of formula I, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is hydroxyalkyl, wherein R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydroxyl; wherein R<sup>4</sup> is replaced by a double bond between the N atom and the C carbon atom of the N-containing heterocyclic ring of formula I; and wherein R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

25. (Currently amended) ~~Compound~~ A compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are selected as in Table A.

26. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims ~~1-25~~ 1, 17 and 21.

27. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 9.

28. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 11.

29. (Cancelled)

30. ~~Use of~~ A method of treating cancer comprising administering a compound according to any one of claims ~~1 to 25~~ 1, 17, and 21 for the preparation of a medicament for treating cancer to an individual in need of such treatment.

31. (Cancelled)

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32. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method of treating cancer comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any of claims 26 to 28~~ claim 26.